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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/646,194	09/14/2000	Hisashi Saiga	55051(1117)	5757
21874	7590	02/28/2005	EXAMINER	
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP P.O. BOX 55874 BOSTON, MA 02205			BASOM, BLAINE T	
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			2173	

DATE MAILED: 02/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/646,194	SAIGA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Blaine Basom	2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 28,29,31-39 and 41-55 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 28,29,31-39 and 41-55 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 14 September 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/4/2004.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION***Response to Arguments***

The Examiner acknowledges the Applicants' substitution of the Abstract. There exists, however, various grammatical issues with the new abstract, as is described more fully below.

The Examiner acknowledges the Applicants' amendments to claims 28, 31, 32, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 46, 47, and 52, in addition to the Applicants' cancellation of claims 30 and 40. In light of these amendments the Examiner's objection to claim 52 is withdrawn, as is the double patenting issue regarding claim 52.

Regarding the claimed invention, the Applicants submit that the page objects taught by the PDF reference manual do not include all of the display information and scroll display control information required to manage and display the page object, as is now recited in the amended claims. The Examiner agrees, as previously admitted. However, the Examiner notes that various amended claims comprise 35 U.S.C. §112 and 35 U.S.C. §101 issues, as is shown below. The Examiner additionally notes that the claims fail to sufficiently express, with a few exceptions, any correlation or association amongst the recited pre-specified units or distinct files. Consequently, a PDF file, which comprises all of the display information and scroll display control information necessary for the display of data, may be considered a pre-specified unit or distinct file, as is shown below. The Applicants suggest that the claimed invention is directed towards storing an entire document in the form of pre-specified units. No claim, however, explicitly indicates such a feature. Those claims that do express a correlation or association amongst pre-specified units, such as claim 31 which expresses linking scroll paths, are anticipated by the PDF reference manual, which teaches that a thread in a PDF file may include

links to threads in other PDF files, as is described below. Regardless, the Examiner submits that storing an entire document as a plurality of distinct files is known in the art. For example, U.S. Patent No. 6,480,866 to Mastie, which is not relied upon in any of the following rejections, teaches storing a document as a set of distinct page files (for example, see the abstract). The Applicants' arguments have thus been considered, but are moot in view of the following grounds of rejection, which are required in response to the Applicants' amendments.

Additionally, and for the record, the Examiner notes that the Applicants' amendment, specifically reciting that, "each pre-specified unit of display data including data to be displayed, and all display information and scroll display control information necessary for the display and/or scroll display of said data to be displayed," and the like, is imprecise and is therefore a potential candidate for a 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection. Display information and scroll display control information necessary for displaying data is not defined in the art, such that one can read the limitation "all display information and scroll display control information necessary for the display and/or scroll display of said data to be displayed," and understand exactly what information is encompassed within this limitation. For example, the computer program that reads the data to be displayed, and displays this data, could be considered display information necessary for the display of said data to be displayed. The specification of the present application, however, doesn't explicitly disclose that such a computer program is included within each pre-specified unit, nor does the specification recite exactly what display information and scroll display control information is necessary for the display of data. The limitation of, "all display information and scroll display control information necessary for the display and/or scroll display of said data to be displayed," is thus subjective and indefinite. Although not done in the

present Office Action, any claims comprising such a limitation may be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 in the future.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it comprises grammatical problems. In particular, the phrase “one or more pre-specified units that each include all of the display information and scroll display information associated with the display data therein necessary to the scroll display of that display data” is considered grammatically incorrect. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

Claims 28, 38, and 46 are objected to because of the following informalities: Regarding claims 28 and 38, it is noted that each of these claims recite the phrase, “necessary for the display and/or scroll display.” Thus use of “and/or” in this phrase is objected to because it is indefinite. Additionally, each of claims 28 and 38 recite the term “co-ordinate,” which is incorrectly spelled, and not consistent with the spelling of “coordinate” recited elsewhere in the claims. As per claim 46, the phrase “as defined any one of claims 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, or 45” is objected to as being grammatically incorrect. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, there is no antecedent basis for “said pre-selected unit for scroll display,” as recited in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 28-29, 31-35, 38-39, and 41-45, and 48-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Each of these claims recites a data storage medium with display data recorded thereon. However, there is no explicit recitation or suggestion of anything tangible, nor is there any explicit recitation or suggestion of having the data storage medium cause anything to occur.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 28, 31, 33-36, 38-39, 41, and 43-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the “Portable Document Format Reference Manual, Version 1.2,” which is attributed to Bienz et al. (and hereafter referred to as “Bienz”). In general, Bienz describes the Portable Document Format (PDF), a file format used to specify electronic documents such that the documents are easily and reliably exchanged and viewed (see section 2.1, on page 27). Such PDF documents are stored as files (see section 2.3.2, on page 30), which are interpreted to be maintained in computer memory. As described below, each of these files comprises data to be displayed, in addition to all the display information and scroll display control information necessary for the display of the data. Each of these PDF files is consequently considered a “pre-specified unit,” like recited in the claimed invention. Therefore, computer memory having one or more PDF files stored thereon is considered a data storing medium with display data recorded thereon, wherein the display data is recorded in the form of pre-specified units.

Specifically regarding claims 28 and 38, Bienz discloses that a PDF file comprises four sections: a header, a body, a cross-reference table, and a trailer (see section 5.1, beginning on page 61). It is understood that this PDF file describes a document, and comprises all of the information necessary to display the document. For example, Bienz discloses that a PDF document is implemented by a hierarchy of objects included within a PDF file (see section 6.1

on page 71). In particular, each page of the document is realized by a corresponding “Page object,” the Page object being efficiently accessed through a “Pages tree” structure (see section 6.3, beginning on page 75). Each Page object describes the content and functionality of a single document page (see section 6.4, beginning on page 77), and particularly comprises a “Contents” parameter, which references the page description of its corresponding document page (see section 6.4, on page 78). Specifically regarding claim 38, it is understood that this page description may comprise image data objects and associated management information for these objects (for example, section 8.1 beginning on page 209). It is also understood that, in addition to all the necessary display data, a PDF file comprises all the information necessary to scroll the document. For example, Bienz discloses that a PDF file may define one or more article “threads,” each comprising one or more “beads” (see section 6.12 beginning on page 111). An article bead is associated with a distinct section of an article, whereby a plurality of such beads may be linked into a common thread, so that a user may read an entire article by scrolling from one article bead to the next, rather than from one page to the next (see section 6.12, beginning on page 111). In particular, each bead includes an “R” parameter, which identifies the page location on which its associated article section appears (see Table 6.44 on page 112). It is understood that this page location is specified in a coordinate system according to the coordinate values assigned to its associated article section. For instance, the R parameter is denoted by 4 values, wherein these 4 values identify the coordinates of the corners of the rectangle surrounding the associated article section (see section 7.1 on page 133). Each article bead is thus specified by a rectangle, or in other words, by two sets of line segments having different directions in a coordinate system - two parallel line segments extending in a first direction, and two parallel line segments

extending in a second, transverse direction. Additionally, each bead includes a “T” parameter, a “V” parameter, and an “N” parameter, which respectively identify the thread on which the bead belongs, the previous bead in the thread, and the next bead in the thread (see Table 6.44 on page 112). The beads are accordingly linked into a common thread such that a user may scroll from bead to bead, i.e. article section to article section, in order to read an entire article. It is interpreted that in doing so, the above-described T, V, and N parameters are used to move from one bead to the next, whereby for each bead, the above-described R parameters reference the bead’s associated article section, which is displayed at an appropriate zoom level (for example, see section 6.12 on page 111). Consequently, as a thread is formed by a plurality of intervals, namely beads, which are specified by line segments having different directions in a coordinate section defined by the PDF file, a thread is considered a scroll path along which scrolling through a document is to be conducted. Bienz thus presents a pre-specified unit of display data, specifically a PDF file, which includes document data to be displayed, and all display information and scroll display control information necessary for the display of the document data, wherein the scroll display control information defines a plurality of beads, i.e. intervals, that together form a scroll path, i.e. thread, along which scrolling is to be conducted, the intervals forming the scroll path being specified by line segments having different directions in a coordinate system defined by the pre-specified unit according to coordinate values assigned to the document data.

Concerning claim 39, Bienz discloses that the document described by a PDF file may comprise one or more pages (for example, see section 6.3, beginning on page 75). A PDF file is

consequently considered a “page grouping” like recited in claim 39, and Bienz thus teaches that a pre-selected portion of display data may be a page grouping of image data objects.

As per claims 31 and 41, Bienz discloses that a PDF document may display a link, similar to a hypertext link, which may be selected to display a thread of the same PDF document, or of a different PDF document (see section 6.9 beginning on page 96, and particularly section 6.9.5 beginning on page 101). It is understood that a user may encounter such a link when reading through an article thread, and that the user may select the link in order to display another article thread referenced by the link. Such a link is thus considered information for linking with another scroll display path, i.e. thread, and Bienz is considered to teach that a scroll display path may comprise this information for linking with another scroll display path.

Referring to claims 33 and 43, the article beads of Bienz are considered to constitute “scroll display control information,” as is described above in the paragraph regarding claim 28. As further shown above, each bead includes an R parameter, which delineates a specific article section by means of four coordinate values, these coordinate values defining a rectangle. The beads are linked into a common thread so that a user may scroll from bead to bead in order to read an entire article, whereby for each bead, the content bounded by this rectangle is displayed at an appropriate zoom level (for example, see section 6.12 on page 111). Thus the scroll display control information taught by Bienz includes information, particularly this R parameter, which specifies display information, namely article sections, which as described above are associated with selected areas of the coordinate system defined by each page. By the same reasoning, this R parameter is understood to specify a scroll display area on the display screen.

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As per claims 34 and 44 the article beads described by Bienz are considered to constitute “scroll display control information,” as is described above in the paragraph regarding claim 28. Each bead includes an R parameter, which as shown above, delineates specific document content by means of four coordinate values, these coordinate values defining a rectangle about the content. The beads are linked into a common thread so that a user may scroll from bead to bead in order to read an entire article, whereby for each bead, the content bounded by this rectangle is displayed at an appropriate zoom level (for example, see section 6.12 on page 111). Consequently, it is understood that the size of such a rectangle affects the amount of zoom for the document content referenced by the bead; for example, if the rectangle is the size of an entire page, the document content may not be zoomed much, whereas if the rectangle is much smaller, the document content may be enlarged more significantly. Thus the scroll display control information taught by Bienz includes information, specifically the rectangle identified by the R parameter, which intrinsically specifies a scale of enlargement or reduction of a display area for scroll display.

As per claims 35 and 45, the B parameter of Bienz, and its referenced article beads, are considered “scroll display control information,” as is described above in the paragraph regarding claims 28 and 29. Such an article bead includes a R parameter, which as shown above, references specific document content by means of four coordinate values, these coordinate values defining a rectangle about the document content. Regarding the claimed invention, Bienz discloses that PDF documents may include movies and sounds (see section 1.3 on page 20). It is therefore understood that the document content referenced by the above-described R parameter may comprise movies and/or sounds. Consequently, the scroll display control information taught

by Bienz includes synchronous reproduction information, namely the R parameter, which specifies data content to be reproduced in synchronism with the scroll display, and wherein this data content may comprise non-motionless data such as sound and/or moving images.

In reference to claims 36 and 46, Bienz discloses that a computer is used for reproducing and displaying a PDF document (for example, see section 2.2 on page 28). As described above, such a PDF document is stored in a storage medium and is scrolled based on the above-described scroll display control information. Such a computer presenting the PDF document described by Bienz is therefore considered a “display device,” like that recited in claims 36 and 46.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 29, 37, and 47-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Portable Document Format Reference Manual, which is described above, and also over U.S. Patent No. 5,634,064, which is attributed to Warlock et al. (and hereafter referred to as “Warnock”). Specifically regarding claims, a PDF file comprises information used to display and control a particular document, and specifically comprises scroll information specifying one or more threads for the document. As the size of document is arbitrary, it is understood that a PDF document may possibly comprise only a single page (for example, see section 6.3,

beginning on page 75). It is understood, in other words, that the pre-specified unit of display data may be a page. Regarding such an occurrence, however, Bienz does not explicitly disclose that a single page may comprise a thread, formed by a plurality of beads, as is expressed in claim 28, upon which claims 29 depends.

Like the PDF format described above, Warnock discusses documents which may comprise one or more articles, each article having sections on different pages of the document, whereby a thread may be created so that a user may read an entire article by scrolling from one article section to the next, rather than from one page to the next (see column 2, line 30 – column 3, line 31). Regarding the claimed invention, Warnock teaches that a single page of a PDF document may have more than one article section of the same article, such that a user can display a single article section of the page at a time, and scroll from one article section to the next (for example, see column 5, line 46 – column 7, line 31). When displayed, each article section is automatically zoomed to fit within the display window, yet may still require scrolling if the length of the article section, for example, does not fit within the window (see column 10, line 56 – column 11, line 36). Particularly, each article section is displayed at either the beginning of the section and scrolled toward the end of the section, or displayed at the end of the section and scrolled toward the beginning (see column 11, line 31 – column 12, line 9). Each article section is thus implicitly associated with two vectors which further specify the scroll path through an article, one vector starting at the beginning of the section and ending at the end, the other vector starting at the end of the section, and ending at the beginning of the section.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of the Portable Document Format Reference Manual and Warnock before him at the time the invention

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was made, to modify the PDF format taught by Portable Document Format Reference Manual, such that multiple article beads may be linked on the same page, as is done by Warnock. It would have been advantageous to one of ordinary skill to utilize such a combination because the ability to navigate between particular sections of an article located within the same page is beneficial in certain document layouts, such as columnar layouts, as is demonstrated by Warnock.

With respect to claims 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, and 53, Warnock teaches that the scroll path though each bead is inherently conducted along one of two vectors, one vector starting at the beginning of the bead and ending at the end, the other vector starting at the end of the bead, and ending at the beginning, as is described above. As further described above, the PDF format comprises an “R” parameter associated with each bead, the “R” parameter defining a rectangle as 4 coordinate values in a coordinate system defined by the PDF file within which the bead is located. This rectangle, surrounding the article section, identifies the beginning and end of the section, and therefore defines the vectors by which the scroll paths through the section are defined. It is consequently understood that with the above-described combination of the PDF Reference Manual and Warnock, the scroll display control information, specifically the “R” parameter for each bead, specifies the scroll path of the display of the display information as vectors identified by coordinate values of the pages in a coordinate system defined by the display data according to coordinate values assigned to the article sections in each page. Each PDF file of display data may be sequentially displayed along such vectors, since as described above, the beads are linked into a common thread so that a user may scroll from bead to bead in order to read an entire article of the PDF file.

In reference to claims 54 and 55, Warnock discloses that each article bead may be associated with a zoom level, the zoom level being based on the width of the article section (see column 11, lines 4-30). As described above, the PDF format comprises an “R” parameter associated with each bead, the “R” parameter defining a rectangle surrounding the article section associated with the bead. This rectangle, since it surrounds the article section, defines the width of the section. It is consequently understood that the with the above-described combination of the PDF Reference Manual and Warnock, the scroll display control information, specifically the “R” parameter for each bead, defines an appropriate zoom level for the bead, and is thus considered a scale of enlargement or reduction of a display area for scroll display on the screen of a display device.

Specifically regarding claims 37 and 47, Bienz discloses that a computer is used for reproducing and displaying a PDF document, as is described above. As further described above, such a PDF document is stored in a storage medium and is scrolled based on the above-described scroll display control information. This computer presenting the PDF document described by Bienz is therefore considered a “display device,” like that recited in claims 36 and 46. It is understood that this computer comprises a processing unit, as known in the art, whereby this processing unit ultimately implements and controls the scroll display of the image on the computer’s display screen. Consequently, such a processing unit is considered a “scroll indicating means,” like that recited in claims 37 and 47. Warnock teaches that the PDF document, displayed via such a processing unit, may be scrolled only while the user instructs the computer to scroll the document in either the forward or backward directions along a thread, i.e. scroll path (for example, see column 2, lines 38-55; and column 10, line 56 – column 12, line 9).

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The above-described combination of Bienz and Warnock is thus considered to teach a display device comprising a scroll indicating means for scroll display, wherein the scroll display is conducted based on scroll display information only while a user instructs the a display controller to perform the scroll display in either the forward or backward directions along a scroll path.

Claims 32 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the above-described PDF documents taught by Bienz, and also over Japanese Patent No. 5-323941, which is attributed to Michihiro Ota (and hereafter referred to as “Ota”). As described above, Bienz discloses a data storage medium with display data recorded thereon, wherein like recited in each of claims 28 and 38, the display data is provided with all the necessary information for scroll display on a display screen. This information for scroll display comprises a plurality of beads denoting article sections, which as described above, may be linked into a common thread, so that a user may read an entire article by scrolling from one article bead to the next, rather than from one page to the next (see section 6.12, beginning on page 111). Bienz however does not explicitly disclose that this information for scroll display includes information specifying a scroll display speed, as is expressed in each of claims 32 and 42.

Like Bienz, Ota discloses a method for presenting a document on a display screen, whereby the document can be scrolled. Regarding the claimed invention, Ota teaches that the scroll speed may be varied according to the number of characters displayed (see the abstract of Ota). Consequently it is understood that the document described by Ota is associated with information for scroll display, wherein this information for scroll display includes information on a scroll display speed.

It would have therefore been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Bienz and Ota before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the information for scroll display taught by Bienz, such that the articles may be scrolled at a rate proportional to the number of characters displayed, as is taught by Ota. It would have been advantageous to one of ordinary skill to utilize such a combination because the resulting document scrolling speed would match the document reading speed of a user, as is taught by Ota (see the abstract of Ota). This is a desirable attribute for a document displaying system. Thus with this combination of Bienz and Ota, the beads of an article thread are each scrolled at a rate proportional to the number of characters displayed in the article section associated with each bead. In other words, the content of the article section implicitly specifies the scroll display speed of that section. The content of such article section is determined by the P and R parameters of the bead associated with that article section, as is described above in the rejection for claims 28-29 and 38-39. Thus the P and R parameters of each bead specifies the content of an article section, which in turn includes information (namely the characters displayed in that article section) that determines the scroll display speed, and therefore, the P and R parameters are understood to inherently include information specifying the scroll display speed. Consequently with this combination of Bienz and Ota, the scroll display control information includes information specifying a scroll display speed.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. §1.111(C) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The Mastie U.S. Patent cited therein, as briefly described above, teaches storing a document as a set of distinct page files (for example, see the abstract).

The Applicants' amendment necessitated any new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

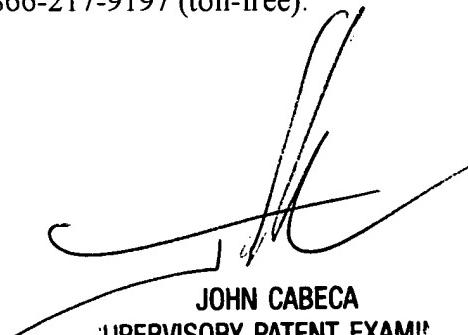
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blaine Basom whose telephone number is (571) 272-4044. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

btb



JOHN CABECA
SUPervisory PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 21